

To: Peterson, Mary[Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Wed 11/20/2013 9:17:51 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 11/20/13

For Review:

OPA Daily Digest for 11/20/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.) 10/29/13. Recommendation for an EPA position. Due: 11/13/13.
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Scripps - Lawan Hamilton/Mark Greenblatt – 11/8/13 – Inquiry regarding the status of the Doe Run consent agreement. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Environmental Stories:

Associated Press - **Kansas will study building a Missouri River aqueduct** - 11/19/13 - Kansas water officials said Tuesday they were moving forward with plans to determine the feasibility of building a 360-mile aqueduct to tap the Missouri River to support agriculture in western parts of the state.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/19/4634798/kansas-will-study-building-a-missouri.html>

The Hill (blog) - EPA ethanol decision pushes farm bill toward finish line - 11/19/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency's preliminary decision to reduce renewable fuels blending requirements has increased momentum to get a farm bill done this year, the top House negotiator on the measure said Tuesday. <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/agriculture/190777-epa-ethanol-decision-pushes-farm-bill-toward-finish-line>

The Hill (blog) - Biofuels industry, allies push back against EPA decision - 11/19/13 - Biofuels producers and their political allies are ramping up public and behind-the-scenes pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency to rethink its plan to scale back the national biofuels blending mandate. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190803-biofuels-industry-allies-push-back-against-epa-decision>

Somewhat Reasonable (blog) - EPA 'Public Listening Session' Turns Into Sierra Club Talking Session - 11/18/13 - Although the EPA hearing in Chicago yielded the same mix of speakers, this time I noticed they were all wearing Sierra Club "Climate Action Now" shirts. Now maybe it's just me, but I felt a slight level of discomfort when I saw a single organization dominate a "public" hearing in the way that they did. <http://blog.heartland.org/2013/11/epas-public-listening-session-turns-into-sierra-club-listening-session/>

Scientific American (blog) - Why the EPA revised the Renewable Fuel Standards - 11/19/13 - Last week the U.S. EPA revised (PDF) the federal renewable fuels standards, known as the Renewable Fuels Standards (RFS), to include lower targets. Clare Foran at National Journal highlights EPA's revisions. <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/plugged-in/2013/11/19/why-the-epa-revised-the-renewable-fuel-standards/>

Wheeling News-Register - Editorial - EPA Plan a Nightmare - 11/20/13 - In the next few months, the U.S. Supreme Court will be wading back into the greenhouse gas debate. Instead of allowing states and citizens the freedom to choose their own power source, the EPA has imposed a government-centered view of what's right. <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/592402/EPA-Plan-a-Nightmare.html>

Des Moines Register - Citizens group calls for permits for large livestock operations - 11/20/13 - Members of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement pushed the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission on Tuesday to require permits for large livestock operations, including one in Van Buren County that it says has had multiple manure spills. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013311200060&nclink_check=1

Des Moines Register - Branstad launches a new website to support ethanol, biodiesel use in fuel supply - 11/19/13 - Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds today launched a new website to

oppose the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to roll back the amount of renewable fuels that must be blended in the nation's fuel supply.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/11/19/branstad-reynolds-launches-a-new-website-to-support-ethanol-biodiesel-use-in-fuel-supply/>

Times-Republican (Marshalltown, Iowa) - Alliant moves forward with power plant - 11/20/13 - Alliant Energy has accepted the Iowa Utilities Board decision and is moving forward with its plans for the new natural gas-fired power plant in Marshalltown.

<http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/565837/Alliant-moves-forward-with-power-plant.html>

Globe Gazette (Mason City, Iowa) - Editorial: Ethanol important to Iowa energy, Iowa agribusiness - 11/20/13 - It is likely some states are plowing ground that shouldn't be farmed, and hurting ethanol's efforts at reducing greenhouse gases. But the ethanol industry seems right for Iowa. We are a state that understands farming, and understands the importance of protecting our vital soil and water.

http://globegazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/ethanol-important-to-iowa-energy-iowa-agribusiness-globe-gazette-editorial/article_de8cc5c2-04a2-571d-8657-c21a9790d2bf.html

Bloomberg - TransCanada pushes Keystone XL pipeline project start to 2016 - 11/19/13 - TransCanada Corp. pushed the start date for its \$5.4 billion Keystone XL oil pipeline into 2016, the second delay this year as the company awaits U.S. approval for the project.

<http://www.bigredtoday.com/article/20131119/NEWS/131118541>

St. Louis Business Journal - Blunt defends legislation that helps Monsanto - 11/19/13 - U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said legislation he backed that shields agricultural seed companies like St. Louis-based Monsanto from litigation was really aimed at helping Missouri farmers.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2013/11/blunt-defends-legislation-that-helps.html>

Daily Nebraskan (UNL) - Nebraska Sustainability Roundtable centers on environmental issues - 11/20/13 - Wind and solar power won't be main energy sources for Nebraska any time soon. At least until cheaper, better batteries are developed and day-to-day wind pattern predictions become more effective, said Jerry Hudgins, the chair of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln electrical engineering department.

http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/article_9c8dc250-519b-11e3-8e65-0019bb30f31a.html

Bettendorf.com - Air pollution report card for Iowa - 11/20/13 - Despite environmentalists' calls for a faster schedule to lower fine particulate pollution in Muscatine, the latest Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) draft implementation plan would not require such emissions be within federal air quality standards until 2017. <http://www.bettendorf.com/node/1691>

E&E News Daily - Energy analyst Faeth says water-intensive CCS could disqualify technology in some regions - 11/19/13 - Could carbon capture and storage technology's high water usage make CCS irrelevant in water-stressed regions of the United States?
<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059990670/>

Washington Post - Plain writing in government: Agencies, plainly speaking, aren't there yet - 11/20/13 - When it comes to clear, well-written communications with the public, the Social Security Administration gets an A. The Treasury Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development get D's and F's. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2013/11/19/plain-writing-in-government-agencies-plainly-speaking-arent-there-yet/>

Mother Jones - Will Natural Disasters Fuel an Environmental Movement? - 11/19/13 - Although individual events like these cannot be attributed with absolute certainty to increased fossil fuel use and climate change, they are the type of disasters that, scientists tell us, will become a pervasive part of life on a planet being transformed by the massive consumption of carbon-based fuels.
<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2013/11/climate-change-protest-environment-public-disaster>

Capital Press (West Ag) - Lawmakers oppose EPA water regulation rewrite – 11/19/13 - Members of the Senate and House Western caucuses have sent a letter telling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to stop trying to regulate non-federal waters as part of a rule redefining "waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act. <http://www.capitalpress.com/article/20131119/ARTICLE/131119883/1020>

Minneapolis Star-Tribune - Sun Number rates homes' rooftops for solar panels - 11/19/13 - A start-up company that is expanding in Minnesota has developed data tools to help the solar industry assess which rooftops are suitable for solar panels. <http://www.startribune.com/business/232436371.html>

Bloomberg - Coal Seen as New Tobacco Sparking Investor Backlash: Commodities - 11/20/13 - About \$8 trillion of known coal reserves lie beneath the earth's surface. The companies planning to mine and burn them are being targeted by a growing group of investors concerned with the greenhouse gases that will be made. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-20/coal-seen-as-new-tobacco-sparking-investor-backlash-commodities.html>

Reuters - In Oklahoma, water, fracking - and a swarm of quakes - 11/19/13 - Is a dramatic rise in the size and number of quakes in his state related to oil and gas production activity? And, if so, what can be done to stop it? <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/19/us-usa-earthquakes-fracking-oklahoma-idUSBRE9AI12W20131119>

Blog For Iowa - Senator Rob Hogg's Climate Change Tour Hits Pella and Cedar Rapids - 11/20/13 - Senator Rob Hogg is on a climate change tour throughout Iowa. He has been touring the state talking

about the impacts and issues that climate change brings to Iowa and what climate change means for America in the 21st century. <http://www.blogforiowa.com/2013/11/20/senator-rob-hoggs-climate-change-tour-hits-pella-and-cedar-rapids/>

Domestic Fuel - Pressure Cooking to Improve Electric Car Batteries - 11/20/13 - David Kisailus and Jianxin Zhu Researchers at the University of California, Riverside's Bourns College of Engineering have redesigned the component materials of the battery found in electric vehicles in an environmentally friendly way. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/11/20/pressure-cooking-to-improve-electric-car-batteries/>

Farm Bureau - Watersheds Receive Funding for Water Quality Improvement - 11/18/13 - The Watershed Improvement Review Board recently approved 10 applications totaling more than \$2.3 million in grants to support projects that will improve water quality or reduce flooding in the state. <http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/articles/104441/watersheds-receive-funding-for-water-quality-improvement>

E&E News - Boehner 'hopeful' that budget conference produces spending target soon - 11/19/13 - House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) today said he is "hopeful" that budget conferees can agree on a spending target by the end of this week and that he shares concerns voiced by leaders of the House Appropriations Committee. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059990711/>

Greenwire - EPA appeals judge's order on numeric standards for Mississippi River - 11/19/13 - U.S. EPA has filed paperwork to appeal a federal judge's order that the agency formally decide whether numeric standards are needed for nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River Basin. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059990715/>

E&E Daily - Replacing water and gas infrastructure along pipeline route a better investment -- report - 11/19/13 - Replacing aging water and natural gas infrastructure in the five states crossed by the complete Keystone XL project would create about 1.5 times as many jobs as the pipeline itself for every \$1 billion spent. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059990677/>

Biomass Magazine - Biomass: A Carbon Pollution Solution - 11/22/13 (issue) - Biomass Power Association President Bob Cleaves discusses U.S. President Barack Obama's Climate plan, and what it means for the biomass power industry. <http://www.biomassmagazine.com/articles/9702/biomass-a-carbon-pollution-solution>

Biomass Magazine - Supreme Court to review EPA authority over GHGs from stationary sources - 11/19/13 - The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review whether the Clean Air Act grants the U.S. EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from large, stationary sources in the same way it did for automobiles. <http://www.biomassmagazine.com/articles/9704/supreme-court-to-review-epa->

[authority-over-ghgs-from-stationary-sources](#)

CNN - Is bottled water safer? - 11/19/13 - Drinking plenty of water is important for your health, because it maintains bodily functions, carries nutrients to cells and helps you stay hydrated and energized. But you've probably wondered: Is fancy bottled water somehow better for you than plain tap water? And is it even OK to drink tap water without using a water-filtration device?

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/11/19/health/upwave-bottled-water/index.html>

Huffington Post - Time to Speak Up Against Carbon Pollution - 11/19/13 - The EPA is listening. Let's send a clear message! Written input can be sent here. I plan to follow up with a letter including a note from my kids. I hope you will too. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amanda-hanley/epa-listens-to-overwhelmi_b_4277462.html

Reuters - TransCanada boosts Keystone XL cost estimate by \$100 mln - 11/19/13 - TransCanada Corp raised its preliminary cost estimate for the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline on Tuesday, saying it now expects the project to cost at least \$5.4 billion, \$100 million more than its prior forecast.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/19/transcanada-keystone-e>

Energy.gov - Energy Department Invests Over \$7 Million to Deploy Tribal Clean Energy Projects - 11/14/13 - the Energy Department today announced nine tribal clean energy projects to receive more than \$7 million, including the Winnebago tribe's solar energy project to power their municipal building.

<http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-invests-over-7-million-deploy-tribal-clean-energy-projects>

ThinkProgress - Why The EPA Cut Down The Biofuel Standard For The First Time Ever – 11/18/13 - The “Friday news dump” is the announcement of decisions, events and developments they'd just soon see disappear down the memory hole. In that tradition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Friday that, for the first time, it intends to revise the U.S. biofuel mandate downward.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/11/18/2956771/epa-cut-biofuel-mandate/>

The Motley Fool - The Opportunity That Could Turn Nuverra Environmental Solutions Around - 11/19/13 - The biggest concern with fracking centers on its environmental impact. Many decry the massive amount of fresh water used in hydraulic fracturing. It's the opportunity to treat and recycle this water that holds the key to the future of Nuverra Environmental Solutions.

<http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/11/19/the-opportunity-that-could-turn-nuverra-environmen.aspx>

The Hill (blog) - States press EPA for flexibility in power plant climate rules - 11/20/13 - State power regulators are urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to give states plenty of leeway to decide how they will meet upcoming carbon emissions standards for existing power plants.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190916-states-press-epa-for-flexibility-in-power-plant-climate-rules>

BN A - EPA Proposes Less Detailed Reporting On Fluorinated Gas Producer Emissions - 11/20/13 - Fluorinated gas producers would be required to provide the Environmental Protection Agency with less detailed greenhouse gas information beginning in calendar year 2015 as part of an agency proposed rule.
<http://www.bna.com/epa-proposes-less-n17179880193/>

BN A - Dealing With Climate Change at Top Of EPA's Goals in Draft Strategic Plan - 11/20/13 - One of the Environmental Protection Agency's top priorities for fiscal years 2014-2018 will be implementation of President Barack Obama's climate action plan, according to a draft strategic plan released Nov. 19.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283506&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3k0j0g1&split=0

BN A - Debate Over Carbon Emissions Standards For New Plants 'Exaggerated,' Report Finds - 11/20/13 - The debate and rhetoric over the impact of new source performance standards for new power plants is "largely symbolic" and exaggerated by both sides, a Congressional Research Service report concluded.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283509&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3k0p6b1&split=0

BN A - Baucus Says Drafts on Tax Reform Will Affect Energy Incentives Indirectly - 11/20/13 - Tax overhaul drafts being released this week by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) will "not specifically" address energy tax incentives but will indirectly affect provisions related to energy taxes.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283518&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3m4a3r1&split=0

BN A - Renewable Fuel Proposal Could Halt New Biofuels Investment, Industry Says - 11/20/13 - An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to reduce the 2014 renewable fuel standard below the statutory blending requirements jeopardizes investment in advanced biofuels just as they approach commercialization, industry advocates said.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283504&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3k0q2v3&split=0

BN A - Upton Says Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Efforts 'Stalled' Following EPA Proposal - 11/20/13 - The chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee said efforts to revise the renewable fuel standard have "stalled for now" and aren't likely to continue any time in the near future.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283511&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3k4f1b4&split=0

BN A - EPA to Appeal Court Order Requiring Agency To Determine Need of Water Nutrient Criteria - 11/20/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency filed notice Nov. 18 that it will appeal a court decision ordering the agency to determine whether numeric nutrient criteria are needed in the Mississippi River Basin.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283515&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0e3m4a1n6&split=0

BNB - EPA Wet Weather Policies Limited To Eighth Circuit Jurisdiction, Agency Says - 11/20/13 - A March appeals court ruling rejecting the Environmental Protection Agency's restrictive policies on wastewater discharges during periods of heavy rainfall is limited to that court's jurisdiction, the agency said.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283507&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0e3k0j4t4&split=0

BNB - Lawmakers Hope to Issue Water Resources Conference Report First Week of December - 11/20/13 - As conferees prepare for their first meeting on water resources legislation, lawmakers said they hope to produce a conference report by the first week of December and wrap up work reconciling the House and Senate versions before Congress departs for the holidays.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38283524&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0e3m4f3d7&split=0

Inside EPA - Utilities May Face Legal Standing Hurdle For Greenhouse Gas NSPS Suits - 10/19/13 - Utilities may face difficulties demonstrating they have legal standing to file suit over EPA's new source performance standard (NSPS) to limit greenhouse gases (GHGs) from future power plants.

<http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-11/21/2013/utilities-may-face-legal-standing-hurdle-for-greenhouse-gas-nsps-suits/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - Industry Cautions EPA Against Overreach In Existing Power Plant GHG Rule - 10/19/13 - Industry groups are broadly warning EPA not to go too far when it proposes a rule next year to set performance standards to limit greenhouse gases (GHGs) at existing power plants.

<http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-11/21/2013/industry-cautions-epa-against-overreach-in-existing-power-plant-ghg-rule/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - Utility Ramps Up Bid For Judicial Review Of EPA Air Act Violation Notices - 10/19/13 - Texas utility Luminant is ramping up its legal push to make EPA Clean Air Act notices of violation (NOVs) subject to judicial review.

<http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-11/21/2013/utility-ramps-up-bid-for-judicial-review-of-epa-air-act-violation-notices/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - House Lawmakers Urge EPA Against Strict Brick MACT Air Toxics Rule - 10/19/13 - A group of 52 House lawmakers is urging EPA against making its brick sector maximum achievable control technology (MACT) air toxics regulation stricter than a previous version of the rule when the agency issues a new version of the MACT next year.

<http://insideepa.com/Clean-Air-Report/Clean-Air-Report-11/21/2013/house-lawmakers-urge-epa-against-strict-brick-mact-air-toxics-rule/menu-id-68.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Raises Methane's Global Warming Potential - 10/19/13 - EPA has issued a final rule that raises the global warming potential (GWP) -- the amount of heat a greenhouse gas (GHG) traps

in the atmosphere -- for methane and other greenhouse gases (GHGs).

<http://insideepa.com/201311192453357/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-raises-methanes-global-warming-potential/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - Industries Weigh Research To Fight Studies Justifying Stricter PM NAAQS - 10/19/13 -

Major industry groups are in the early stages of a push to advance new research into the health effects of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), sources say. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453408/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industries-weigh-research-to-fight-studies-justifying-stricter-pm-naaqs/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Engineered Approaches For Replacing Chemicals Of Concern - 11/20/13 -

EPA toxics chief Jim Jones reluctantly agreed to entertain advice from a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel on ways to consider engineered approaches, in addition to drop-in chemical replacements, in assessments of alternatives to chemicals of concern. <http://insideepa.com/201311202453435/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-eyes-engineered-approaches-for-replacing-chemicals-of-concern/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/3/13 – SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

12/5/13 – RA Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

12/5-6/13 – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/20-21/2013 – Hosting Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Kansas City, Mo. Contact; Jim Callier, 7646.

11/21/2013 – Attending the Missouri Air Conservation Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147.

12/12/2013 – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

12/4-6/13 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

11/21/13 - GovFest Government Business Services Conference, Overland Park, KS. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

11/20-22/13: Oversight of pre-construction activities West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

11/20/13: Public availability session to discuss DOD vapor intrusion investigation St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

WWPD

11/21/13 - Drinking water enforcement priorities discussion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131

11/21/13 - Iowa Cattlemen Association meeting, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Stephen Pollard, 7582